



Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

Lambda Letters Project

32561

Vol. 2, No. 8

August, 1994

6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, California 95608

Phone (916) 965-6851

The Entertainment Books Are Almost Here! Our Goal Is to Sell 400 Copies, So We Have Two Unbeatable Offers for You

The Sacramento Entertainment Books are due to arrive on August 15th and the books for the rest of the state will arrive soon thereafter. All coupons are good as soon as the books are issued. These books are positively crammed with 2-for-1 and 50%-off coupons, good at restaurants, theaters, hotels, airlines, car rental agencies, and more.

Because we need your help in selling Entertainment Books, we are offering you an exciting inducement. Anyone who sells eleven books will receive a twelfth book at *no cost*.

In the first six months of this year, Lambda Letters collected over 15,000 letters. That means we have collected over 72,000 letters since we were founded. That, of course, costs us money. We need to sell Entertainment Books like never before to cover those costs and to provide funds for continuing the growth in the number of letters we collect. It's important to grow because the more letters we can send that support your views, the more likely the politicians will listen to you.

Help us grow and serve you better. Order your Sacramento/Gold Country Entertainment Book '95 today. Get your friends and members of your groups to order books too. Take advantage of our volume buyer's offer. Get a free book for yourself or share the savings among your friends by submitting a volume order. *Please use the back of the enclosed flyer to send us your order today.* Working together, we will make your will known and served in the halls of government.

Also in This Issue:

Lambda Letters Scoreboard	2
Sending the Governor a Personal Note	3
Feinstein Supports Helms!	3
Governor Supports HIV Testing	3
Women's Health Care Needs	4
Protecting All People's Health Care	4
Sending the Health Care Reform Pledge	5

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Issue

Domestic Partners Inclusion, Soon . . .

Return This Letter Promptly!

Somewhere around August 15-17 we expect the Assembly Ways and Means Committee to vote on S.B. 2061, which adds domestic partner protections to the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act. The Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) has endorsed, in principle, the inclusion of domestic partners within its definition of family. S.B. 2061 offers an opportunity to work out a viable protection which is in the interests of all employees and families. In all fairness to the changing definition of family in America today, domestic partners of public employees covered by PERS should be granted basic rights of health and hospital care. We urge you to return your letter promptly so that we can send it to the members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee in time for the vote. Should your letter arrive late at Lambda Letters, it will be directed to your assemblyperson instead.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and AIDS/HIV+ status advocacy and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and persons affected by or living with AIDS/HIV+ status into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

Board of Directors

John Boyle, San Diego, (619) 299-3438, Chair
Mary Ann Murphy, Eureka, (707) 444-2775, Vice-Chair
Gretchen Jung, Sacramento, (916) 922-6287, Recorder
Ray Leber, Sacramento, (916) 925-5368, Treasurer
Joe Heller, Sacramento, (916) 454-0411
J.P. Rasmussen, San Diego, (619) 543-0059
Shawn Todd, San Diego, (619) 543-0059
Stefan Grünwedel, Sacramento, (916) 455-5065

Staff

Boyce Hinman, Administrator, (916) 965-6851
Stefan Grünwedel, Newsletter Editor, (916) 455-5065
Sharlene Gilman, Legislative Analyst: Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Issues, (916) 757-1920
Joe Heller, Legislative Analyst: AIDS/HIV+ Status Issues, (916) 454-0411
Karen Roth, Legislative Analyst: Women's Issues, (916) 753-6670
Jeff Tsang, Legislative Analyst, People of Color Issues, (916) 455-1616

Sponsors of Lambda Letters Project

Corporate Benefactors (\$250-350)

Faces of Sacramento

Change of Address Form

Please change my address to:

Name

Address

City, ZIP Code

Phone

Send changes of address (incl. name, new address, city, ZIP code, and phone number) to Lambda Letters Project, 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Lambda Letters Scoreboard

Here is an update on legislation that our members have written on in the past few months:

State Bills

S.B. 2610 (Author, Vivian Bronshvag-D): Would allow counties to establish clean needle and syringe distribution programs. Lambda Letters supports A.B. 2610. Passed by the Assembly and by the Senate Health Committee. Scheduled for a vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 8th.

A.B. 2810 (Author, Richard Katz-D): Would allow statewide registration of domestic partners. Lambda Letters supports A.B. 2810. Passed by the Assembly. Now scheduled for a vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 8th. Should it pass there, it would go to the Governor for signature.

A.B. 3374 (Author, Johan Klehs-D): Increases penalties on sweatshop owners who violate the Labor Code. Lambda Letters supported A.B. 3374. Passed in the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Industrial Relations. Scheduled for a vote in Senate Appropriations on August 15th.

S.B. 1350 (Author, Diane Watson-D): Reduces the difficulties faced by a single parent who needs to relocate for a new job or continue his or her education. Lambda Letters supports S.B. 1350. The bill has not been approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. It is being retained in committee for further study.

S.B. 1528 (Author, Cathie Wright-R): Removes from current law the presumption that parents with custody of a child may determine the place of residence of their child. Lambda Letters opposes S.B. 1528. The bill has not been approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and remains in that committee for further study.

S.B. 2061 (Author, Gary Hart-D): Would allow members of the Public Employees Retirement System (state and local government employees) to enroll their domestic partners on their employer provided health insurance plan. Lambda Letters supported S.B. 2061. Passed all Senate committees failed first vote in the full Senate. Will be voted on again the week after press time for this issue of the newsletter.



Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters Collected

June	3,955 letters
This year	15,271 letters

Dollars Spent

June	\$1,727
This year	\$7,367

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Send a Personal Note to the Governor

Please send a personal note in support of A.B. 2810 directly to Governor Pete Wilson at:

The California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

A.B. 2810, authored by Assembly Member Richard Katz (D), would allow the registration of domestic partnerships at the Secretary of State's office. We expect this bill to be sent to the Governor for signature soon.

Please write the note in your own words, mentioning that domestic partnerships should be recognized, domestic partner's hospital visitation rights should be guaranteed, and that people should be able to use the state's statutory will form to will property to their domestic partner. A.B. 2810 makes these things possible.

LLP Volunteer Classifieds

Letter Stuffers—People from the Sacramento area needed to help stuff, seal, and address envelopes containing fund-raising letters. May be done at home and at times convenient for you.

Fund-raisers—People with fund-raising skills, or the willingness to try, are needed to form fund-raising committees in the Sacramento, Sonoma, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego areas. We will arrange contacts between volunteers and others from your area. Persons interested in any of the above may send us their name, address, and phone number, or may call us at (916) 965-6851.

Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3.5" x 2") \$10 per issue

Quarter-page ads \$20 per issue

Half-page ads \$30 per issue

Full-page ads \$50 per issue

Send payment and your camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, to:

Lambda Letters Project
6212 Silverton Way
Carmichael, CA 95608

Deadline is the 25th of each month.

Feinstein Supports Helms Amendment!

On July 19th the Senate voted on an amendment to S. 9226, the Agricultural Appropriations Act. This amendment, proposed by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), instructs the U.S. Department of Agriculture not to recruit gay, lesbian, or bisexual employees, and that it should do nothing supportive of the "gay lifestyle." The amendment passed with 92 senators voting for it and 8 voting against it. Senator Feinstein voted *in favor* of the amendment while Senator Boxer voted *against* it. Senator Feinstein's number is (415) 249-4777, and Senator Boxer's number is (415) 403-0100. We suggest you call them and express your opinion on this vote. Senators Feinstein and Boxer are both Democrats of California.

Governor Keeps HIV Testing Funds in Budget!

In June we wrote to State Senator Alfred Alquist, asking that the Joint Budget Conference Committee, of which he was Chair, keep the Legislature's \$5 million budgetary augmentation for HIV testing and education in their final budget proposal. To our delight not only did the committee do this, but Governor Wilson kept the amount in his final budget! A number of individuals from statewide AIDS organizations have told us that the 968 individually signed letters we sent on this topic influenced the committee enough to allow funds to stand—further evidence that *together our letters make a difference!*



MASON McDUFFIE

ANNE MCGIVERN

Realtor®



PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Office (707) 546-8811

Fax (707) 544-8958

Res. (707) 523-ANNE

Mason-McDuffie Real Estate Inc.
1221 Farmers Lane, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

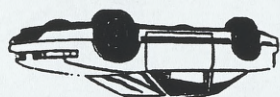
Women's Health Care Needs Sought

As Congress moves toward action on health care reform, it is vital that women's health care needs are addressed. Of specific interest is coverage for comprehensive reproductive health services for women and their families. Included within the reform must be coverage of abortion and family planning services.

Of paramount concern is abortion services. Congress is furiously debating whether health insurance will cover a woman's right to have an abortion. Currently 85 percent of health insurance companies pay for abortions. Why would we elect to reform our health care system and omit this vital service? Abortions are legal in this country and so *must* be funded by the insurance system. Those who do not believe in abortions can elect not to have them; they do not have the right to restrict others from exercising their lawful opportunity. Congress must not compromise on this issue—all women must now be afforded this right!

The current health care reform policy that is supported by the Congressional Caucus for Women is the one sponsored by William Ford, Chair of the Education and Labor Committee. We are urging you to write your House and Senate representatives and ask for their support for this version of health care reform.

VIOLATION



If you have to go to
traffic school it
might as well be
gay/lesbian!

**PINK TRIANGLE
TRAFFIC SCHOOL
415-282-8104**

Protecting Health Care for All

One of the major shortcomings of the current debate over national health care reform is its failure to address the diverse needs of ethnic minority communities. While the focus of this debate has primarily been on identifying and balancing the needs of the major interest groups (the insurance industry, the medical profession, employers, hospitals, etc.), there has been little mention of the impact of a future health care plan on people of color.

In the development of a national health care plan, one of the most important issues for minority communities is the protection and preservation of community-based health care providers. These small providers are most effective in serving minority communities through their incorporation of such things as bilingual staff, cultural sensitivity, and emphasis on personal interaction. In the absence of these small providers, members of ethnic minority communities are likely to access health care less frequently and receive lower quality care.

Unfortunately, the concept of reducing health care costs, through a system based on health maintenance organizations and other large providers, will marginalize, if not eliminate, small health care providers. Without protections, efforts to achieve universal coverage will come at the expense of quality care for people of color in America.

This month's people of color letter asks members of Congress to consider the impact of national health care reform on minority communities and protect quality care for these communities.

Adults * Adolescents * Children

BEA BETZNER, M.F.C.C

License No. MFC 30303

Counseling for the *Rainbow* Community

5120 Manzanita, Suite 100, Carmichael, CA 95608

Evening Hours

Sliding Fee

(916) 564 - 8701

An Issue That Still Affects Us

Just like the Energizer Bunny, the issue of health care reform keeps going and going. It is an issue which intimately affects *all of us* in many ways. Furthermore, it will continue to affect us throughout our lives. Both houses of Congress promise to have bills on their respective floors before you get this newsletter.

While the specifics of these proposed bills are changing daily, there is a clear party-line split on how to pay for health care and also as to "how real" the problem is. Make no mistake, available and affordable health care is a real problem for numerous Americans today. Many Democrats want employers to pay for a good portion of their employee's health insurance, while many Republicans are opposed to either employer mandates or tax increases to pay for these costs. There are other differences among members of Congress, and not all of them are along party lines.

Last month we sent the provisions of a "Pledge for Health Care Reform"—which many AIDS service organizations across the U.S. have adopted as their policy—to Senator Dianne Feinstein. This month we are sending a similar letter to the members of California's delegation in the House of Representatives. At this point, we have not written to California's other senator, Barbara Boxer, since she is clearly committed to the provisions with which we are most concerned.



Couples, Families, Individuals

Ellie Zacks, Ph.D.

*Clinical Psychologist
PSY10426*

(916) 334-0667
By Appointment

4811 Chippendale Dr., Suite 901, Sacramento, CA 95841

Whisler Financial Group Tax Preparation and Real Estate Sales & Management Services



Mark Whisler
Real Estate Broker
Licensed Tax
Preparer

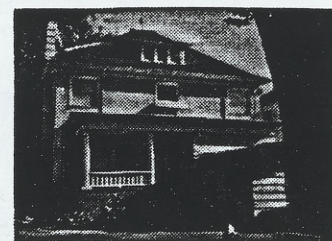
Ken Cody
Licensed
Tax Preparer



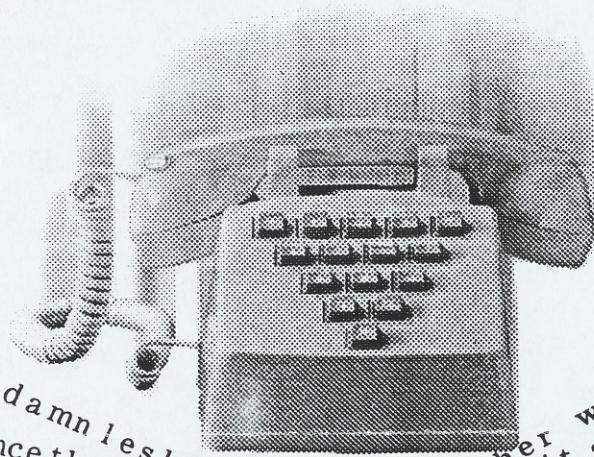
Chris Henderson
Realtor ®



Our Office
2509 Capitol Ave
Suite 100
Sacramento, CA
(916) 446-6666



Whisler Land Company



She's a damn lesbian... working her whole career to advance the homosexual agenda. Call it gay-bashing if you want to. I call it standing up for traditional family values. — Senator Jesse Helms

Talk Back to Bigotry

Can we just sit back while bigots like Jesse Helms spew hatred and fear about *our* rights?

Now there's a phone company that helps you fight back.

WORKING ASSETS LONG DISTANCE provides you with cheap and easy ways to speak out on vital issues that affect *you*. Every Monday we give you FREE calls to political and business leaders so you can give them a piece of your mind. For instance, Working Assets members barraged the CEO of Cracker Barrel Restaurants with over 10,000 calls and letters urging the company to stop firing employees for being gay.

And we donate 1% of your long distance charges (at no extra cost to you) to nonprofit groups *you help choose* working for human rights, peace and the environment.

Groups like the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Planned Parenthood, the National Minority Aids Council and Greenpeace.

Now for the money-saving part. Our basic interstate rates are lower than AT&T®, MCI® and Sprint®. And Working Assets is the *only* phone company that saves you an additional 25% on calls to anyone else on our network. Naturally, we also give you clear, fiber-optic sound, 24-hour operators and easy direct dialing.

Intrigued? Try us for three months and get 60 minutes FREE. Then the next time you're outraged by anti-gay rhetoric — don't just sit back.

Talk back.

On our dime, not yours.

CALL TODAY AND GET 60 MINUTES FREE!



WORKING ASSETS®
Long Distance

1.800.788.8588

THE SMALL PRINT By joining, you'll authorize Working Assets Long Distance to be your primary long distance carrier. Your local phone company may apply a one-time switching fee. Working Assets will give you a credit equal to 60 minutes of interstate calling. The credit will be at the 3,000 mile night/weekend rate and will be issued after your third full month of service. Free Monday calls are to selected numbers described in your monthly bills. Offer void where prohibited. Rate comparisons effective 11/1/94 and subject to change. Working Assets Long Distance. 701 Montgomery Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111 EC 160 NYN 1